

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

December 10th 2012

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Barbara Edmondson

Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca



<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
1.	typhoon	a) chance of danger
2.	valley	b) a place people can stay to be protected from something
3.	flood	c) to make people do something they do not want to do
4.	landslide	d) to have experienced a negative or harmful event
5.	widespread	e) the sides of a hill are almost straight up and down
6.	risk	f) mud, trees and rocks slide down the side of a mountain
7.	force	g) a huge storm in the west Pacific Ocean or China Sea
8.	steep	h) to exist almost everywhere, or in many places
9.	shelter	i) the low land between two mountains or hills
10.	affected	j) a great amount of water that is unable to drain away

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. A _____ hit the southern Philippines last week.	a) powerful typhoon b) huge storm
2. The storm _____ people and hundreds more are _____.	a) killed almost 400 / missing b) killed many / in shelters
3. Many of the victims were in a steep valley that often has _____ and _____.	a) farming / typhoons b) floods / landslides
4. People thought _____ were safe, but they were actually the most dangerous.	a) the emergency shelters b) the farming areas
5. The government tried to force the people out of _____.	a) the emergency shelters. b) high-risk areas.
6. The Red Cross and the Red Crescent are _____.	a) asking for help for people affected. b) collecting donations for the Philippines.

Discussion Question

What kinds of bad weather have you experienced? How can we be prepared for the difficult winter weather in Alberta?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary - Read the definitions below, and then put the sentences in the correct order. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Words and Definitions

announcement – to say something out loud or in print for everyone to hear

morning sickness – a type of illness some pregnant women get, they feel dizzy and vomit

in line for the throne – next person to be king or queen

succession – the order in which something occurs; one after the other

status – social standing; the position of one person compared to others

be expecting – to look forward to the birth of a child; to be pregnant

1. William second line of the in is succession. Prince

Prince William is second in the line of succession.

2. First Charles. for in the line is throne Prince

3. When sickness. my she sister morning was had pregnant

4. alcohol. If drink a not woman should is she expecting

5. There about the the announcement Christmas in was an newspaper concert.

6. Men have countries and world. many status women now equal in in the

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Prince William is married to the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton.

2. Kate Middleton expecting her third child.

3. Kate is experiencing severe morning sickness.

4. The baby will be third in line for the throne.

5. Before, male children came line for the throne before female children, but a new law has given females equal status in the order of succession.

6. The Duchess of Cambridge stayed in the hospital for a week.

Discussion Question

Why are so many people interested in the British Royal family? Do you follow the lives of any famous people from your country?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

hopeful (confident)	signs (suggestions)	representatives (members)
spectacular (unbelievable)	raised my hopes (made me think something is possible)	
rejecting (refusing)	wondering (thinking about)	cancellation (decision to end something)

1. There is a _____ charge on my cell phone plan.
2. There are _____ of Christmas everywhere I look in the mall.
3. The warm weather _____ that spring is coming!
4. I will be _____ the job offer; it doesn't pay well enough.
5. My daughter is _____ which college course to take.
6. I am _____ that his birthday card will arrive on time.
7. Some _____ of the bank explained the car loan to me.
8. The sales on Boxing Day are _____.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What days did the negotiations take place?
2. Who was NOT at the negotiations last week?
3. Why did hockey fans feel hopeful at first?
4. How many games have been cancelled?
5. How did hockey fans feel about their chances of watching hockey by the end of the week?

Discussion Question

Do you think sports teams should be allowed to go on strike? Will hockey fans still want to watch hockey if the whole season is lost? Do you enjoy watching hockey or do you prefer other professional sports?

Language Focus

Complex Sentences - Identifying independent and dependent clauses

Complex sentences are sentences with at least one independent clause and one dependent clause.

Independent clauses are complete sentences; that is they have a subject and a verb. Dependent clauses cannot exist on their own because they are missing either a subject or a verb. Let's look at examples of the two different types of clauses:

Independent clause: "The child will be next in line [for the throne]..."

Dependent clause "Whether boy or girl..." This clause is missing a verb.

These two clauses are found in the same sentence in our news story:

"Whether boy or girl, **the child will be next in line** behind William in the line of succession."

Dependent clauses often begin with subordinating conjunctions: *after, although, as, because, before, how, if, once, since, than, that, though, till, until, when, where, whether, while*

Here are some more sentences from our third story. Can you identify the independent and the dependent clauses? *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. "As the first-born child of William -- who is second in line for the throne, the couple's child is likely one day to become king or queen."
2. "There is a new law which gives females equal status with males in the order of succession."
3. "The Duchess returned home after spending four days in hospital."

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	DECEMBER 7 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Nirmala Naidoo. You're listening to Learning English with CBC news for December 10th th .	0:00
Story 1	A powerful typhoon has killed close to 400 people in the southern Philippines. Hundreds more are still missing. Most of those people who were killed, were in a steep mountain valley at the time. This farming area often has floods and landslides. Flooding was so widespread there that some places people had thought were safe, including two emergency shelters, were in fact the most dangerous. The government tried to force people out of high-risk areas as the typhoon came close to the Philippines. The Red Cross and Red Crescent are asking for help for people affected by the typhoon.	0:10
Story 2	Britain's royal family announced Monday that Prince William and his wife are expecting their first child. The announcement came as the 30-year-old Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton, had a severe form of morning sickness and was in a London hospital. The announcement said that the pregnancy is in its "very early stages." As the first-born child of William -- who is second in line for the throne, the couple's child is likely one day to become king or queen. Whether boy or girl, the child will be next in line behind William in the line of succession. There is a new law which gives females equal status with males in the order of succession. The Duchess returned home after spending four days in hospital.	01:01
Story 3	Hopeful signs in the National Hockey League labour dispute ended badly last week in a game of one step forward: two steps back. Talks between a small group of players and NHL representatives took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, without NHL boss, Gary Bettman and NHL players' association executive director, Donald Fehr. At first, the sides seemed to move closer but on Thursday night, talks broke down in spectacular fashion. Donald Fehr raised the hopes of hockey fans at a news conference saying the sides were close to an agreement but while he was talking a voice mail was left on his cellphone, saying the NHL was rejecting the players' association's offer. It's left many people wondering how the two sides could come so close together, and yet end so far apart. The NHL lockout has led to the cancellation of 422 regular-season hockey games so far through to December 14th.	02:13

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
g	1. typhoon	a) chance of danger
i	2. valley	b) a place people can stay to be protected from something
j	3. flood	c) to make people do something they do not want to do
f	4. landslide	d) to have experienced a negative or harmful event
h	5. widespread	e) the sides of a hill are almost straight up and down
a	6. risk	f) mud, trees and rocks slide down the side of a mountain
c	7. force	g) a huge storm in the west Pacific Ocean or China Sea
e	8. steep	h) to exist almost everywhere, or in many places
b	9. shelter	i) the low land between two mountains or hills
d	10. affected	j) a great amount of water that is unable to drain away

Listening

1. A _____ hit the Southern Philippines last week.	a) powerful typhoon b) huge storm
2. The storm _____ people and hundreds more are _____.	a) killed almost 400 / missing b) killed many / in shelters
3. Many of the victims were in a steep valley that often has _____ and _____.	a) farming / typhoons b) floods / landslides
4. People thought _____ were safe, but they were actually the most dangerous.	a) the emergency shelters b) the farming areas
5. The government tried to force the people out of _____.	a) the emergency shelters. b) high risk areas
6. The Red Cross and the Red Crescent are _____	a) asking for help for people affected. b) collecting donations for the Philippines.

News story 2

Vocabulary

1. Prince William is second in the line of succession.
2. First in line for the throne is Prince Charles. / Prince Charles is first in line for the throne.
3. When my sister was pregnant she had morning sickness.
4. If a woman is expecting she should not drink alcohol.
5. There was an announcement in the newspaper about the Christmas concert.
6. Men and women now have equal status in many countries in the world.

Listening

1. T Prince William is married to the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton.
2. F Kate Middleton expecting her third child.
3. T Kate is experiencing severe morning sickness.
4. T The baby will be third in line for the throne.
5. T Before, male children came line for the throne before female children, but a new law has given females equal status in the order of succession.
6. F The Duchess of Cambridge stayed in the hospital for a week.

News story 3

1. There is a cancellation charge on my cell phone plan.
2. There are signs of Christmas everywhere I look in the mall.
3. The warm weather raised my hopes that spring is coming!
4. I will be rejecting the job offer; it doesn't pay well enough.
5. My daughter is wondering which college course to take.
6. I am hopeful that his birthday card will arrive on time.
7. Some representatives of the bank explained the car loan to me.
8. The sales on Boxing Day are spectacular.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What days did the negotiations take place? Tuesday and Wednesday
2. Who was NOT at the negotiations last week? Gary Bettman and Donald Fehr
3. Why did hockey fans feel hopeful at first? Because the Players announced that the two sides were close to an agreement.
4. How many games have been cancelled? 442
5. How did hockey fans feel about their chances of watching hockey by the end of the week? Not confident that they would be able to watch any hockey this season.

Language focus

1. "As the first-born child of William -- who is second in line for the throne, the couple's child is likely one day to become king or queen."
2. "There is a new law which gives females equal status with males in the order of succession."
3. "The Duchess returned home after spending four days in hospital."